

Today's News - Wednesday, December 7, 2011

- The City 2.0 is the 2012 TED Prize winner - ideas welcome on how to spend \$100,000 to be invested in seeding the "one wish to change the world."
- Hume x 2: he's very concerned about the growing trend of selling pieces of the public realm to private ventures - "public debt can disappear and re-emerge as a surplus in the wave of an accountant's wand. Not so a de-accessioned amenity."
- He cheers the new breed of urban pioneers populating the new urban frontier of former industrial wastelands: "We don't think of condo dwellers as pioneers, but that's what they are."
- Staying north of the border, there's a new report on the "ghettoization" of Canadian cities.
- Doig digs deep into the trend of tearing down highways, "creating bold new public spaces - and building a future without cars...Few urban design initiatives can instantly transform a large swath of a city like building (or unbuilding) a freeway" (great links, too).
- Scotland unveils £60 billion infrastructure plan that includes rail and road networks, schools, hospitals, and housing.
- Heathcote on the "greatest airport architect of the age" + Foster explains the genesis of his vision for an airport in the Thames estuary: the Millennium Bridge and the redevelopment of Trafalgar Square are "the same project in microcosm. They're about issues of cities, public space, mobility, communication."
- London's Boxpark made of shipping containers is "probably the most environmentally friendly shopping mall ever built" (great slide show of container architecture; alas, no mention of architects).
- Rus on Rios Clementi Hale's re-do of Beverly Hills' Temple Emanuel: "the hydra-headed project demanded an adroit resolution of complex imperatives, some seemingly contradictory" (great pix).
- Heymann's second installment of his series on the charged relationship of buildings and landscapes offers a close reading of Loos's famous and still shocking 1910 essay "Architecture," which is "more radical today than when it was written."
- A "spectacular and sad" spat "involving two of Australia's foremost architects" goes public: "The bitter exchange has dismayed Melbourne's competitive, but ultimately collegiate architecture scene."
- Jones ponders whether an AK-47 belongs in a design museum: "can a lethal weapon be a design classic? This is a killing machine, cold and inhuman. But it probably does belong in the Design Museum. Unfortunately."
- A stellar line-up of participants graces the 2011 Shenzhen & Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture, which opens tomorrow.
- The NEA is leading a new initiative "to encourage more and better research on how the arts help people reach their full potential at all stages of life."
- The ACE Mentor Program of America receives the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Math and Engineering Mentoring.
- AIBC extends deadline for presentation proposals for the 2012 AIBC Annual Conference in Vancouver next May.
- Libya will be launching a competition to create park in Tripoli next year (no details yet, but we'll keep our eye out).
- One we couldn't resist: amazing images of what is being found in dried-up lake beds in Texas: "This is a once-in-a-lifetime find and maybe the only silver lining in the ongoing drought."

If you could hand your business card to one person in the world, who would it be?

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2012 TED Prize Winner – The City 2.0: \$100,000 will be invested directly in seeding the "one wish to change the world" to be made on behalf of The City 2.0...ideas welcome. - TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design)

Private lives and public policy: ...the selling of the city — indeed, of the public realm in all its various forms — is only just getting going in earnest. So far, the merchandise on offer has been relatively small stuff...public debt can disappear and re-emerge as a surplus in the wave of an accountant's wand. Not so a de-accessioned amenity...What is the resale value of a road, a subway route, a sewage treatment facility...Where does the sale of public assets end? By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star

Urban pioneers and city settlers: In a world of suburban sprawl, monster homes and walk-in closets, the 301-square-foot box-in-the-sky represents a new way of life...this is the new frontier...Boldly going where few have gone before, they make their homes in former industrial wastelands and vacant sites once occupied by the homeless. By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star

Canada Income Inequality: Which Canadian Cities Are Seeing The Fastest Ghettoization? Researchers from Queen's University, the University of Toronto and StatsCan have released a working paper showing that Canadians are increasingly segregating themselves according to income. [\[link to report\]](#) - Huffington Post

Are freeways doomed? Several cities are tearing down highways, creating bold new public spaces - and building a future without cars...pulling down these shrines to the automobile also feels like a bold rewriting of America's 20th-century urban script: Revenge of the Pedestrian...Few urban design initiatives can instantly transform a large swath of a city like building (or unbuilding) a freeway. By Will Doig [\[links\]](#) - Salon

Holyrood unveils £60bn infrastructure plan: ...will mean substantial investment in Scotland's rail and road networks...features 54 large infrastructure projects and 33 programmes across a range of areas, including schools, hospitals and housing. - Financial Times (UK)

Foster reveals genesis of a vision: ...a transformative new airport in the Thames estuary...Millennium Bridges and the redevelopment of Trafalgar Square are forerunners of this proposal...They're the same project in microcosm. They're about issues of cities, public space, mobility, communication." + Greatest airport architect of the age aims to cement his legacy. By Rose Jacobs and Edwin Heathcote -- Foster + Partners - Financial Times (UK)

Create expectations: Shipping containers used for first 'pop-up' shopping mall: London's "Boxpark"...is "probably the most environmentally friendly shopping mall ever built"...containers have been used for decades as makeshift residences and market shops in places like Africa, but it's only in the last 10 years that architects have "added value" by creating high concept designs out of them. -- Roger Wade; Jure Kotnik [\[slide show\]](#) - CNN

Back to Shul: The reimagining of Beverly Hills' Temple Emanuel is the perfect intersection of hallowed and forward thinking...the hydra-headed project demanded an adroit resolution of complex imperatives, some seemingly contradictory. By Mayer Rus -- Sidney Eisenstat (1953); Rios Clementi Hale Studios [\[images\]](#) - Los Angeles Times Magazine

A Mound in the Wood: ...in the second installment of his latest series on the charged relationship of buildings and landscapes, David Heymann offers a close reading of Loos's famous and still shocking 1910 essay "Architecture," which is, he says, "more radical today than when it was written." - Places Journal

Once were partners: architects' spat goes public: A spectacular and sad falling out has occurred involving two of Australia's foremost architects, Donald Bates and Peter Davidson, the men behind one of Melbourne's most audacious landmarks, Federation Square...The bitter exchange has dismayed Melbourne's competitive, but ultimately collegiate architecture scene. -- LAB Architecture Studio - Sydney Morning Herald

Artistic licence to kill: does an AK-47 belong in a design museum? London's Design Museum has added a Kalashnikov to its collection. But can a lethal weapon be a design classic? This is a killing machine, cold and inhuman. But it probably does belong in the Design Museum. Unfortunately. By Jonathan Jones [\[links\]](#) - Guardian (UK)

2011 Shenzhen & Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture: "Architecture Creates Cities. Cities Create Architecture" ...Juxtaposing that interaction found in Chinese cities...with that of other cities around the world. December 8-February 18, 2012 -- Terence Riley/K/R; Amateur Architecture Studio; Clavel Arquitectos; MOS; OBRA; Studio Up; Wei Chun Yu; James Corner Field Operations; Atelier FCJZ; David Chipperfield; Steven Holl Urbanus; OMA; Qi Xin Atelier; Fang Media; WSP; Woods Bagot; Atelier Deshaus; Alejandro Aravena; Faye—Industries Architectural Agonism; spbr; SO-IL; J. Mayer H.; JohnstonMarkLee; Open Architecture; Aranda Lasch; MAD Architecture; Mass Studies; Hashim Sarkis; Coop Himmelb(l)au; Massimiliano Fuksas; etc.- e-flux

National Endowment for the Arts Announces a New Federal Interagency Task Force to Promote Research on the Arts and Human Development: NEA is leading...13 federal agencies and departments to encourage more and better research on how the arts help people reach their full potential at all stages of life. - National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

ACE Mentor Program of America receives Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Math and Engineering Mentoring: Since 1995, ACE has offered guidance and training in architecture, construction and engineering to more than 100,000 high school students [and] awarded more than \$12.8 million in scholarships. -- Charles H. Thornton/Thornton Tomasetti- Structural Engineer

Call for entries: Call for Presentations deadline extended for 2012 AIBC Annual Conference: The Architectural Institute of British Columbia invites submissions from those interested in speaking and participating in panel discussions or facilitating interactive workshops at the conference, May 9-12, 2012 in Vancouver; deadline: December 15- Canadian Architect

Libya holds competition to create park in Tripoli: Initiative is 'a sign of nation rebuilding itself as a democratic society'...invites architects, landscape architects and students to submit "visionary proposals"...The Freedom Park competition, to be formally launched next year... [link to competition page - not much info]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Texas Drought 2011: Depleted Lakes Expose Ghost Towns, Graves And Prehistoric Bones: ...receding lakes have revealed a prehistoric skull, ancient tools, fossils and a small cemetery that appears to contain the graves of freed slaves..."This is a once-in-a-lifetime find ... and maybe the only silver lining in the ongoing drought" (AP) [slide show]- Huffington Post

INSIGHT: At the Intersection of Medicine, Technology, and Design: Hybrid Operating Rooms: Technology has enabled the transformation of classic operating rooms into dynamic, multi-purpose environments - requiring a new design approach for architects. By Ross A. Cole, BAM Architecture Studio- ArchNewsNow

Call for entries: ArchNewsNow / MOO Competition: If you could hand your business card to one person in the world, who would it be? (It's fun!)- ArchNewsNow

Dominique Perrault: Arganzuela footbridge, Madrid, Spain

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